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The PC Chronicle

Vol.18 No.2

Tuesday, September 7, 1999

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Television wrongly portrays U.S. as anti-diversity
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Total Fitness Center starts new semester with new programs
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Students benefit from booksignings by authors such as Anne Rice who has signed in the Region
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Student forum aims to open communication

KINTAN BRAHMBHATT
Staff Writer

The chance has come again for students to talk directly with administrators and eat free hotdogs afterwards.

The Student Forum will be held Wednesday at noon outside in the Founders Plaza. The forum is sponsored by the Purdue Alumni Association-Calumet. In conjunction with the forum, the PAAC will be hosting a free student picnic.

"Forum is the golden chance for the students to get their answers from the high level administrators of the university," Fred Williams, president of the PAAC said. "The students should be concerned about the important decisions taken on the campus."

Lauren Mathews, the editor in chief of The Chronicle, will serve as the student moderator for this year's forum. Administrators like Chancellor James Yackel; Leo Bryant, vice chancellor for student services and dean of students; Gary W. Edwards, vice chancellor for advancement; Gary Newsom, vice chancellor for administrative services; and Sandra Singer, vice chancellor for academic affairs; will be on the panel.

"The forum is the medium through which the students get satisfactory answers about their questions about the university from the responsible authorities," Michelle Verduzco, director of student leadership development, said.

"The forum is the medium through which the students get satisfactory answers about their questions about the university from the responsible authorities."
Michelle Verduzco, director of student leadership development

Leticia Toma, associate director of the alumni association, said, "The forum is designed to optimize communication between PUC's administration and our students in an effort to serve our student's needs."

PUC students can receive free hot dogs and hamburgers when they show their current fee receipt, at the picnic that will be held outside SFLC near Founders Plaza. The alumni board of directors will be cooks behind the barbecue grills. In case of inclement weather, it will be moved to SFLC-100.

Powers packs 'em in

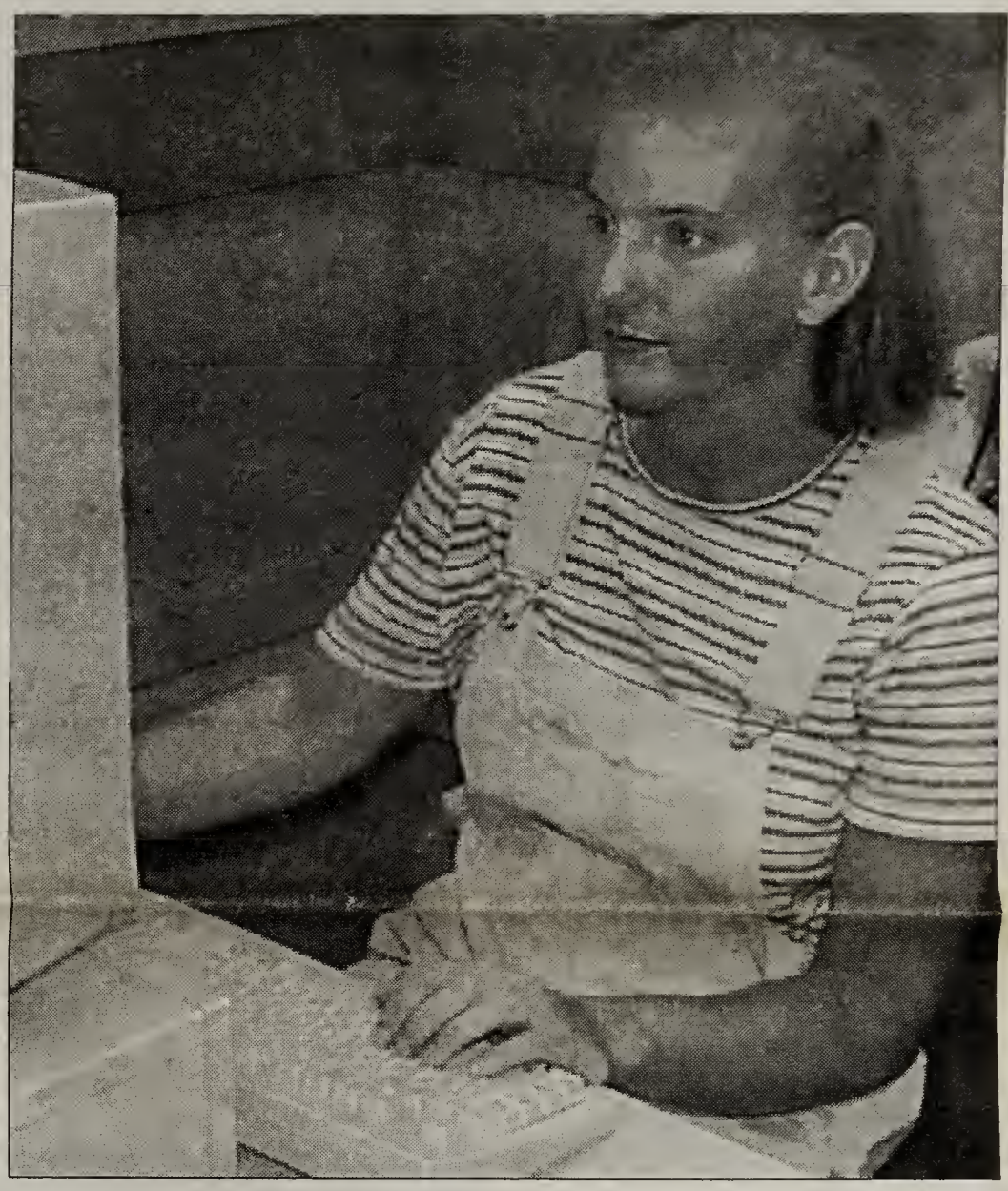


Photo by Skye Enyeart

Sophomore April Wright, a nutrition, fitness, and health major, works on one of the new computers available in the campus' main lab in the Powers building.

Foundation awards research grant to assistant professor

CINDY TORRES
Staff Writer

Chris Rasmussen, assistant professor of mathematics education at PUC, has received a National Science Foundation grant for $400,653.

The grant is an NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program award. These grants help fund junior faculty in their career development. This is Rasmussen's third year in the mathmatics department.

"I am not only thrilled for Chris himself, but also very pleased because receiving the grant award reconfirms that what Chris is doing is very important," Catherine Murphy, department head of mathematics, said.

Rasmussen was awarded the NSF grant to research undergraduate students learning of mathematics. Rasmussen explained that this was not going to be some sort of "medical model" study where group "A" receives the treatment and group "B" receives a placebo. Instead, the research will take place in PUC Differential Equation classrooms. Students will be videotaped upon their consent to participate.

Russ Gowen is a past student of Rasmussen's differential equations class. He refers to the class as "amazing" and to Rasmussen's approach as "interactive."

"Most math teachers have a stand and deliver approach where you leave not really knowing if you understand or not," he said. "In Chris' class you come to understand the whole process of the problem."

The study is an attempt to ascertain a more effective way to learn and teach advanced mathematics.

"I plan to share my findings and insights with the mathematical community, so that university instructors can adapt the research to their students and their classrooms."
Chris Rasmussen, assistant professor

"I plan to share my findings and insights with the mathematical community, so that university instructors can adapt the research to their students and their classrooms," Rasmussen said.

The first portion of the five-year grant was allotted on Aug. 15. The funds will be allocated into several areas including: to pay research assistants, to purchase technological equipment (cameras and editing machinery), and to attend conferences to learn and share information.

Four Chicago colleges propose 'super dorm'

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

This could be some rockin' joint.

Columbia College of Chicago, DePaul University, Roosevelt University and Robert Morris College-four prominent schools with campuses in downtown Chicago-have proposed to combine resources to build a $200 million "super dorm" that would house as many as 1,600 students.

Four Chicago Schools looking into 'super dorm'
Columbia College of Chicago, DePaul Univseristy, Roosevelt University, and Robert Morris colleges.

Plans for the building, to be located in the southern part of the city's central downtown area (South Loop), are in the earliest stages of development. It could take several months for the city's planning department to approve the project.

School officials say the plan-titled the University Center of Chicago-would retain each of the schools' separate identities and would be operated by the Educational Advancement Fund, Inc., a non-profit organization formed by the four institutions.

The new dorm would also help "transform the South Loop into a student quarter unparalleled in the history of Chicago," said Columbia Provost and Executive Vice President Bert Gall.

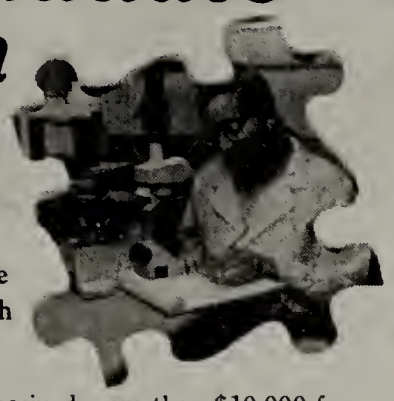
Student Leadership Development workshops begin Friday, Sept. 10 from 1-4 p.m. call 989-2358.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Engaging in research, scholarly activities with faculty:

The Undergraduate Research Program

(Part 1 of 2)



This is the second year for Purdue Calumet's Undergraduate Research Program (URP).

Last year more than 50 students received more than $10,000 for supplies and expenses connected with their research projects. The URP's goal is to help undergraduates participate in research and scholarly activities, in collaboration with Purdue Calumet faculty.

In an URP-supported project, a student and his or her faculty sponsor work together on a project of mutual interest–research can be performed in any discipline on campus. The mentoring relationship developed through the research process is beneficial to the student and to the faculty member.

Students have the opportunity to:

- participate in a research project from beginning to end,
- go beyond classroom experience and
- investigate an idea in great depth.

Faculty has the enjoyment of being able to move beyond classroom examples with students who are engaged actively in the discovery process.

Student Research Grants

The URP provides academic year grants to students doing research with Purdue Calumet faculty members. These are monetary awards given for research equipment, supplies or research-related travel.

A student applies by submitting a brief description of his or her research project and a budget plan to the URP office (SFLC-325). The applications are short: a one-page cover sheet, which includes a half-page abstract and a brief list of the research materials needed and their costs.

Application forms and additional information are available in the URP office. Don't delay! The deadline for applying for funding for a fall project or for a fall/spring project is Sept. 15! Applications for projects during just the spring semester will be due Jan. 18, the first day of spring term classes.

Student grants for travel to research or scholarly conferences

Students who have completed a piece of research or scholarship can receive support to help them travel to conferences to present their work. The maximum award of $150 is composed of a $100 maximum for conference registration and up to $50 for overnight accommodation, when such accommodation is necessary.

Students can apply for travel support whether or not their research is supported by the URP. All student researchers and scholars are encouraged to apply for travel funds.

How to get involved in undergraduate research...

Think about what class or classes you've taken that most interested you. What questions were left unanswered at the end of the course? Go and talk to a faculty member who might have some of the same interests. Your academic advisor can probably help you with an initial faculty contact. From there, you and the faculty member can work together to set up a research program that both of you can support.

For more information, stop by the URP office in SFLC-325.

(Next week: More URP opportunities)

At a glance

around campus

Sigma Gamma Rho hosts show

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., will host an All Greek Step Show on Sept. 10 from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. in Alumni Hall. Tickets will be $5 general admission, and $3 for members.

Tryouts for Cheer Team or Dance Team

The PUC Cheer Team and Dance Team will hold auditions on Sunday at 3 p.m. in the gym in the PER building. For more information, call Wendy Saylor at 989-2540.

Turkish association provides aid

The Purdue Turkish Student Association has initiated a relief effort to help the victims of the earthquake that struck Turkey on Aug. 17. Tax deductible donations may be made by check to: PTSA/TurkQuake Relief Fund, and sent to the PTSA at 1001 Stewart Center, Box 641, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind., 47907-1001. All profits will be donated to the American Red Cross' international reponse fund for victims of the earthquake.

Tickets available for football game

Tickets are available to PUC alumni for a bus trip to a Purdue vs. Notre Dame football game at Purdue, West Lafayette, on Sept. 11. Reservations are $60 and include game ticket, round-trip transportation in an air-conditioned coach and light refreshments. The bus will leave PUC at 11 a.m. for Ross Ade Stadium. Game time is 2:30 p.m. The trip is sponsored by the Purdue Alumni Association-Calumet. Contact PUC's Office of Alumni Relations at 989-2414.

Sorority hosts rush parties

Theta Phi Alpha sorority will hold its fall rush parties Sept. 14, 16 and 17 at 6:30 p.m. in SFLC 321. All interested women are invited to attend or visit the table in the SFLC concourse Sept. 13-17. Contact Heather at 972-2375 for more information.

Join Hoosier A.D.A.P.T.

Hoosier A.D.A.P.T. will be in the student organization fair Sept. 13-17. If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact Andrea Murray at 932-4614. All students are welcome to join.

Psi Chi and Psychology Club host meeting

Everyone is welcome to attend Psi Chi and the Psychology Club's educational and social events meeting on Thursday at 4 p.m. in SFLC-301.

Fraternity seeks new members

Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc., Upsilon Chapter, is seeking new members. The organization will have rush tables in the SFLC lobby Sept. 13-17.Come to our table for more information or contact Orlando E. Garcia at 398-6383, or Noel DeJesus at 752-6570.

SGA looking for new president

The Student Government Association is looking for its new president. Interested students may stop by the Student Leadership Development Office on the third floor of SFLC.

Public auditions for symphony chorus

The Northwest Indiana Symphony Chorus under Choral Director Dr. Nancy Menk invites the public to audition on Friday from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon. Each audition will last about 10 minutes and will take place at the Center for the Visual and Performing Arts at 1040 Ridge Rd., in Munster. To schedule an audition, please call 836-0525.

Play volleyball

Intramural fall co-ed volleyball leagues begin play on Thursday. Team rosters are limited to eight players. For more information, call Bill Crowley or Frank Saculla at 989-2095.

Harbor Light Hospice seeks volunteers

Harbor Light Hospice of Merrillville is seeking dedicated individuals to fill volunteer roles. For more information, call (219) 793-1200 or (800) 237-4242.

Quote of the week

"I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints. The sinners are just more fun."

-Billy Joel
1949-

The Chronicle

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Magazine honors colleges' top student, faculty activists

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Mother Jones magazine has honored student and faculty activists on 10 college campuses for their "outstanding" efforts to promote various causes.

To compile its sixth annual Top-10 list, the magazine surveyed 17 organizations, including the Center for Campus Organizing, Habitat for Humanity, the National Organization for Women and the United States Student Association.

Six students at the University of California at Berekely...went on a hunger strike...

This year's honorees are:

About 40 students at Arizona State University who staged sit-ins and peaceful protests to quash a local law against sitting on public sidewalks. Two protestors won preliminary injunctions against enforcement of the law.

More than 50 students and faculty members at California State University at Northridge who rallied to improve the campus' accommodations for deaf people. In response, the university formed a committee to determine how good a job the school has done with meeting standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

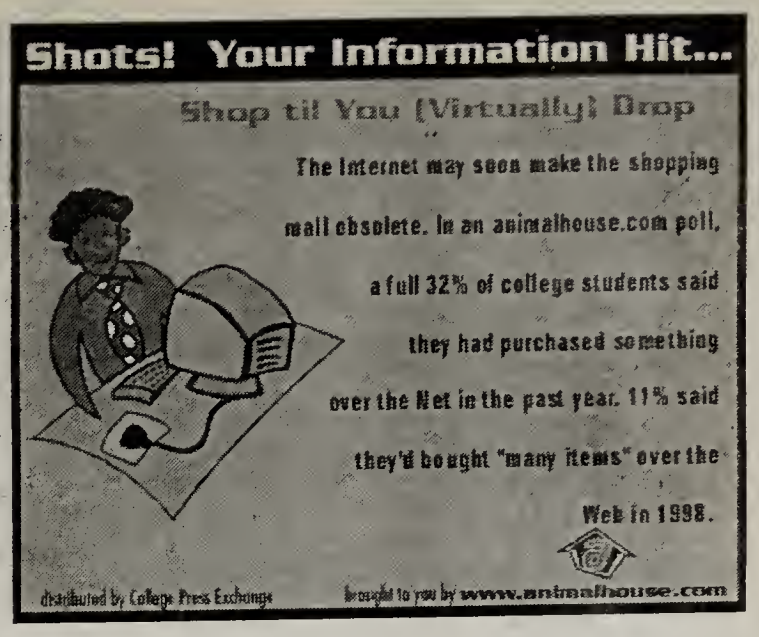
More than 40 students at Fairfield University who held a sit-in in the university's administration building until school officials reconsidered hiring a private contractor to do the work of its janitorial staff. The university ultimately canceled the contract.

A group of gay and lesbian students at MIT who urged the university to ban from campus the Reserve Officers Training Corp, which does not admit openly gay students.

Students at National Autonomous University in Mexico, where students and supporters have shut down the 448-year-old institution to protest an increase in annual tuition to $145 from 4 cents. University officials responded by making the tuition payment voluntary, but students have continued to occupy the campus.

Students at Ohio State University who staged a sit-in to protest cuts in transportation services for disabled students. The university responded by agreeing to expand van service and to work with the city bus system to find more solutions.

Six students at the University of California at Berekely who went on a hunger strike and hundreds more who camped on the school's grounds to protest cuts in the budget of the university's ethnic studies department. The chancellor acceded to many of the students' demands.


Shots! Your Information Hit...
Shop til You (Virtually) Drop
The Internet may soon make the shopping mall obsolete. In an animalhouse.com poll, a full 32% of college students said they had purchased something over the Net in the past year. 11% said they'd bought "many items" over the Web in 1998.
distributed by College Press Exchange
brought to you by www.animalhouse.com

U.S. medical schools applications drop for second straight year

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Applications to U.S. medical schools dropped for the second consecutive year in 1998 and are expected to dwindle even further this fall, according to a report released Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The report's authors didn't explore reasons for the trend, but some admissions officers suspect the nation's robust economy is luring many potential doctors to other fields. Other deterrents may include the heavy debt incurred during medical school; the typical student owes more than $100,000 at graduation.

Decrease in applicants
1996 applicants totaled 46,968
1997 applicants totaled 43,020
1998-99 applicants totaled 41,004

Applicants for the entering class of 1998-99 totaled 41,004, a 4.7 decrease from the 43,020 applicants for the class beginning medical school in 1997. That year's applicant pool was down 8.4 percent from 1996, when 46,968 students applied.

Though final figures for this fall's class aren't yet available, there were 2,000 fewer applicants as of early May than at the same time last year, according to the reports authors, led by Barbara Barzansky of the AMA's division of undergraduate education.

One-third of students surveyed report drinking and driving

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Approximately every 32 minutes, there is one alcohol-related fatality in the United States, and according to a recently released Harvard University study, college students aren't helping to improve that statistic.

The Harvard study on the drinking habits of college students found that more than one-third of them had reported drinking and driving — a 13 percent increase from a survey of college students in 1993..

Although alcohol-related fatalities in the United States have decreased since 1996, there were still 16,789 fatalities in 1997, according to The National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration.

And grumble if you will about the nation's minimum drinking age of 21, but the NHTSA estimates that it has reduced traffic deaths involving 18 to 20-year-olds by 13 percent.

The NHTSA also found that only 18.5 percent of intoxicated drivers who wore seat belts received fatal injuries. Only one state, New Hampshire, does not have seat belt laws in effect. According to the NHTSA report, from 1975 to 1997 seat belts have saved 100,998 lives.

Life's too short.

STOP THE HATE.

Leadership Conference Education Fund, Inc. Ad Council

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Students will have chance to meet and grill administrators

Any student that might have beef with the university will have their chance to get some answers next Wednesday the Student Forum.

The forum is an excellent chance for students-especially those concerned with what is happening on campus-to get what many claim they do not have: answers.

"Why is construction taking so long?"

"Why must I take this class for my major?"

"Why is 'Jerry Springer' the only show ever on in the SFLC lounge?"

These are comments that have infested the campus since Aug. 26, lousy complaints-sometimes important, sometimes not-with no solutions.

The forum places administrators in the so-called "hot chair." This event is probably the only opportunity students will have in their college careers to ask the upper administration of Purdue Calumet what the deal is. That is not to say that administrators will be unprepared since the forum was started by them, but it is to say that if you *want* an honest answer, this is probably the place to get it.

And "I didn't know we were having a student forum" is no excuse. The university has done an excellent job of publicizing the forum. Yellow fliers are on every door or window; and the university's choice for the location of the forum, in the middle of Founder's Plaza, is ideal. It is a central location through which most students, faculty and staff walk to and from classes, or simply sit on benches and relax. As opposed to last year's location in SFLC-100 (where the forum will be held in case of inclement weather), this space is more open and invites those who are only walking past to join the crowd.

Let's face it: the university is not going to spoon feed answers to anyone. No one is going to drag students and make him or her attend the student forum. For those students who are only interested in grabbing their degrees and getting out of Purdue Calumet, the forum is not important. But there are probably more students who are genuinely concerned with this campus, and want to make it a better place for everyone who attends.

The only suggestion we might offer, is to hold the forum each semester, since students change and grow as they get to know the campus more. A first semester freshman that is unsure of their place on this campus might realize by next semester that there are some things he or she can change and get into the open via a meeting like the forum.

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in the commentaries and Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Chronicle* or Purdue University Calumet. *The Chronicle* is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet.

The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the author's name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification. Anonymous letters and commentaries will be considered for publication only if accompanied with the aforementioned specifications.

All materials submitted to *The Chronicle* become the property of *The Chronicle*. All material must be typed (double spaced) or saved on a 3.5" DOS format disk. *The Chronicle* reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Copy deadline is 9 a.m. the Monday before publication.

U.S. growing more diverse, despite network portrayal

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Now we know why they call it the White House.

Only white people seem to work there on "The West Wing,". NBC's heavily promoted new fall season political drama in which a Democratic president is improbably surrounded by a White House staff that lacks any minorities. No blacks, no Hispanics, no Asians.

Huh? What gives? Just the disheartening, aggravating reality of prime-time network television in 1999.

The actual, factual America is becoming a multicultural tapestry of white, black, Hispanic, Asian and many other racial and ethnic groups, making for a more diverse United States than at any time in history, but television is stuck in a serious Caucasian rut. "The West Wing" is but one notable fall season example.

Call it white-on-white blight.

Of the 38 new fall series the six broadcast networks announced in the spring, only two are built around black stars. And both of those - Jaleel White's "Grown-Ups" and "The Parkers," a spin-off of "Moesha" - are on the smaller UPN network. Worse yet, 29 of the new network shows have no minority characters. That's right: zero, zilch.

No wonder NAACP President Kweisi Mfume went ballistic this summer, outraged by what he termed the networks' collective "whitewash" of the 1999-2000 fall TV season. Speaking at the civil rights organization's 90th convention in New York City on July 12, Mfume also announced the start of an NAACP campaign to pressure networks and advertisers.

Even when the NAACP missed on specifics - NBC's "Third Watch," for instance, is a new ensemble drama in which five of nine leading characters are black or Hispanic - the group's condemnation of the networks struck a major chord of truthfulness.

Television has definitely become a whiter shade of pale in recent seasons.

From "Dawson's Creek" to "Friends" and "Frasier" to "Dharma & Greg," the networks increasingly focus on a one-dimensional, white-bread universe - one that's populated by affluent, suburban teens and chattering, ultra-attractive single people and young marrieds.

"I don't believe they're intentionally doing this, but people have to pay attention, you know?" Ralph Farquhar, the African-American creator and producer of "Moesha" and "The Parkers," says of the networks' Caucasian fixation.

"The airwaves are for us all. The makeup of America ... has changed radically over the past 20 or 30 years, and yet TV doesn't reflect the diversity of the American population," says the exasperated Farquhar. "It's ridiculous there are no Latino lead series on TV. It's ridiculous that there are no Asian lead series on TV. And it's ridiculous that there are so few African-Americans."

The People speak

Question of the Week: What do you look for in a candidate running for SGA president?

Mike Lee
senior, physics

"Someone who has decent morals, who is on time, and is committed. How many people are committed around here? You don't see that often."

Nathan Wilson
freshman, CIS

"Definitely morals and honesty. They also have to have good social skills, and lots of common sense and intelligence. Someone who has a goal."

Laura Blastick
sophomore, Computer Programming

"Someone who has similar interests as me and is concemed about the student body, not their own political aspirations."

Jeff Kopack
junior, Public Relations

"An individual who doesn't care about prestige and being the big head of the job. It's an office position, not an accessory. Someone who can actually be the voice of the students."

Carmary Ruiz
sophomore, CIS

"They have to be a good student. They also have to be really involved in the students and what they ask for. They care about people, not just about their title."

MIT student dies from nitrous oxide overdose

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

Two years after the drinking death of an MIT freshman prompted school officials to reexamine the campus' housing and alcohol policies, another student at the prestigious school has died from substance abuse.

MIT junior Richard Guy, 22, of Mission Viejo, Calif., was found dead in his dorm room in Cambridge, Mass., early Tuesday. School officials have not released many details about the physics major's death, but a medical examiner said he died from asphyxiation as a result of nitrous oxide intoxication. In other words, getting high on laughing gas.

Police, who said Guy apparently was using a plastic bag to sniff the nitrous oxide, are investigating the death as an accident.

"It's just a shame," said 19-year-old MIT sophomore Chris Johnson.

"Some of the smartest kids in the world are here. Maybe they think they're too smart to suffer the consequences."

Nitrous oxide is often used as a recreational drug because it causes lightheadedness and euphoria. In its purest form, the gas dissolves quickly in the bloodstream, pushing oxygen out of the blood and into the lungs-thus depriving the brain and other organs of oxygen. Dentists and physicians often use the colorless gas as an anesthetic, but only when mixed with oxygen.

Substance abuse among students has been atop many administrators' agendas since September 1997, when 18-year-old freshman Scott Krueger died three days after he was found in an alcohol-induced coma on the floor of his fraternity house. His death prompted MIT officials to approve construction of a new dorm and require that all first-year students live on campus beginning in the fall of 2001. In July, the university revoked the diploma of a man who bought alcohol consumed by Krueger and other fraternity pledges.

In light of Guy's death, many students said they're prepared for school administrators to embark on another agonizing internal review. But some quickly added that there's only so much MIT can do to monitor and change students' behavior.

"Beyond a certain age, you're responsible for yourself," said MIT senior Larry Aller, 20.

Semester off to a sunny start

Photo by Skye Enyeart

For Kristen Warns (left), a senior in pre-optometry, and her friends Christy Ramian and Carrie Christian, both pre-veterinary medicine majors, last Tuesday's warm sun was a comfortable place to begin this semester's work.

Dalai Lama looks to future as Kalachakra comes to end

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (TMS) — For 11 days, more than 600 Tibetans and thousands of other Buddhists made Bloomington, Ind., their home, boosting the local economy by an estimated $8 million to $10 million dollars as they participated in an event focused on world peace and harmony..

The Dalai Lama of Tibet looked favorably on the performance of sacred Kalachakra ceremonies, expressing appreciation for all who organized and attended the revered Buddhist ritual, held in Bloomington, home of Indiana University, Aug. 16-27.

"I am very impressed," the Dalai Lama said. "Whenever I give some Buddhist teaching in the West, I'm a little hesitant. But many Westerners who participated here showed a genuine interest."

The spiritual leader's teachings concluded last week with a blessing wishing a long life of empowerment to participants. It was the final event of a ritual intended to inspire spiritual growth through fundamental Buddhist ideas.

Thubten Norbu, an associate professor emeritus of Uralic and Altaic Studies and elder brother of the Dalai Lama, said he recognized the need for such teachings in what he called America's troubled society.

"The acceleration of violence in our cities and in our schools is echoed endlessly in our mass media,while the rise of materialism jeopardizes age-old family values," Norbu said.

"Fortunately, we can find solace and healing and transformation through the ministrations of compassion and wisdom."

Approximately 5,000 people attended Kalachakra each day, boosting the local economy and generating enough money to cover the $1.38 million associated with the event. Organizers said any profit made from the event would be given to Tibetan causes and any other groups singled out by the Dalai Lama.

Foul-mouth professor back at Michigan community college

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

An English professor suspended for his potty talk in class says he's not going to change a thing about his way with words now that a judge has reinstated him.

John Bonnell was suspended from his job at Macomb Community College Warren, Mich., in March after a female student complained to school administrators about his regular use of crude language in class.

"It's a great day for the First Amendment in Michigan," Bonnell said shortly after U.S. District Court Judge Paul D. Borman ruled that the professor should get his job back.

The college's attorney had argued that the professor's suspension wasn't about free speech, but rather academic disruption, insubordination, retaliation against a student in a harassment case and breach of the student's confidentiality. That argument may have gotten further with Borman if the school had faulted Bonnell for those things from the beginning of the dispute. Instead, school officials criticized Bonnell only for his use of foul language after conducting an internal investigation.

Bonnell is suing the school for restitution and reimbursement for his legal fees.

"We look forward to round two, said Bonnell's attorney, James Howarth.

Classifieds

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WOULD YOU SIGN MY BOOK?

Book signings give avid fans an opportunity to meet and speak with their favorite author

SARAH KNIGHT
Staff Writer

Students who enjoy reading books may have questions they would like to ask their favorite authors. The answers may not be so difficult to find, thanks to local bookstores.

Barnes & Noble in Merrillville, Borders in Highland and the Calumet Campus Shop located on campus are bookstores that often coordinate special book signing events that give readers the chance to meet with authors or illustrators and ask questions. According to Pam Schrader, an assistant at Barnes & Noble, hundreds of books arrive every month, so these signings usually involve a current publication.

Book signings are free at all of these locations. People who are interested can usually bring in a copy of the book being discussed or purchase it at the store. According to Rita Mazza, community relations coordinator for Borders, often times an author will sign an older book they have written. However, she mentioned that author Anne Rice would only autograph a recent book at some of her signings.

Photo provided by University Relations

PUC professor and author Yahya Kamalipour signed his two newest books at the Calumet Campus Shop, Borders, and Barnes & Noble last spring.

Each bookstore may structure a book signing slightly different.

"I cater to whatever the writer wants," Mazza said. She stated that some authors like to discuss the book and answer questions while others want to sit at a table and just sign books. According to Schrader, Barnes & Noble tries to make every book signing an environment of hospitality.

Mazza said there is no hard fast rule as to when these signings are scheduled. Borders has most of their book signings in the fall and spring because that is when several new books are released. If it is a local author that has a new book, Mazza will schedule a signing that best suits the writers' needs. Some authors call and try to schedule a date when they are visiting the area or publishers will set up author tours and notify stores when a writer is in town.

Mazza sets the events for the Highland Borders so she decides what authors will be signing. Schrader stated that book signings are determined at a corporate level. According to Jim Sexton, store manager of the Calumet Campus Shop, the university schedules the book signings and the store provides support by stocking the books. Sexton has been manager since February and store has had approximately three to four signings.

Professor Yahya Kamalipour, acting head in the department of communications and creative arts, recently completed book signings at the Calumet Campus Shop, the local Borders, and Barnes & Noble for two of the new books he has written. He discussed, "Images of the U.S. Around the World: A Multicultural Perspective," which explains the perceptions that various groups throughout the world have towards the United States, and "Cultural Diversity and the U.S. Media," which covers the issue of how the United States media represents the various ethnic groups that live in the United States.

Kamalipour said he enjoyed the experience.

"I met a lot of new people and I was surprised at the amount of people in Northwest Indiana who were interested in my book," he said.

Schrader agreed. "The people attending contribute a lot of information which can be beneficial to an author."

According to Kamalipour, his book signings at Barnes & Noble were such a success that they suggested he do signings in Chicago.

"There is a good feeling associated with a book signing," he said. He said he would love to do more signings, especially in Chicago but his current schedule does not allow it.

Schrader feels that there is often a large turnout when Barnes & Noble has their book signings. She explained that there is usually a mixed group of people but the main determination of who attends is on what book is being signed.

"The people coming in are just as interesting as the people signing," she said.

Sexton explains it differently, "If LL Cool J were to have a book signing my mother would probably not go, but if it were Liberace then maybe."

College students may want to view book signings as a way to obtain first hand information if they are interested in publishing a book.

"It is really useful, so many students want to write stories or poetry and at book signings they can meet the author and find out how they got into the business," Mazza said.

"For a college student to come and experience a book signing is really wonderful," Schrader said.

Book signings are often advertised in the local newspapers or monthly in-store newsletters. On Sept. 18 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble in Merrillville, the Rev. Carlton Davis will be signing his book "Global Sunday School." This book is a Hebrew and Greek study guide to the Bible. For more information call (219) 736-7788.

On Sept. 22 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. the Borders in Highland will have a back to school night for teachers. According to Mazza, this book signing may hold a special interest for educators. It will feature several local authors who have written children, young adult and non-fiction books. For more information call (219) 922-1103.

On Oct. 22 and 23, the Calumet Campus Shop will be hosting a "Voices of History" book signing at the Hammond Civic Center. For more information contact the store at (219) 989-2322.

Staff writer Joseph Bogs contributed to this story.

Anne Rice, famous author of such horror novels as "Interview With the Vampire" and "The Vampire Lestat," has done several book signings in the area. She would only sign her newest book, not the older ones, at her signings.

Various new albums receive applause

Jamiroquai is back with their hot new follow up album. The disc has been dubbed "Synkronized."

COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

It's a wide, wide world, let's start from the top of it. Wizard Women of the North (NorthSide) compiles a cornucopia of female talent from Scandinavian climes. Singer and instrumentalist alike are the best of the best in the Nordic traditional music scene. Meanwhile, Denmark's Sorten Muld has overdosed on Bjork albums. Never a bad thing. Mark II's (NorthSide) combination of electronic samples with a Nordic sensibility and traditional tunes may even appeal to dance fans...

On to warmer waters. Cuban music is hot following the Buena Vista Social Club. Check out Adalberto Alvarez y su Son and Los Van Van on Cuba Caribe (Hemisphere) and Irakere and Ibrahim Ferrer (Mr. Buena Vista Social Club himself) on Cuba (Putumayo), both fine overviews of the genre in a field getting crowded with compilations...

Here's a concept for all of you closet folkies. Pair up contemporary singer songwriters with songs penned by folk legends like Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, and Tom Paxton, dress it up in fancy gatefold packaging and call it Bleecker Street: Greenwich Village in the 60's (Astor Place). Pretty good stuff that could have been even better as a double set with a disc of the originals... Among the busload of George Strait imitators, few are on par with Clay Walker, whose new effort Live, Laugh, Love (Giant) sports a musical concoction similar to Strait's. Walker may record in the cozy Nashville confines, but his music conjures up the image of Texas' wide open spaces...

Post-punk may never have gotten off the ground without a little band from New York called Television. ROIR has pulled another gem out of their cassette archive with the incendiary, live double album The Blow-Up. The band whales on stone-cold classic "Marquee Moon" and ends with a frenetic "Satisfaction," showing the Stones may have had more than their fair share to do with the development of garage rock...

If anything proves the old adage "what comes around, goes around," it's surely disco. British neo-disco king Jamiroquai is back with his latest effort Synkronized (WORK Group), a jammin' party record if I ever heard one. Sure Jason Kay sounds a bit like Elton John, but Synkronized's funky boogie stew will have you doing your best John Travolta in no time.

Dance Hall Crashers come back with a powerful "purr"

AMY AURELIO
Features Editor

Dance Hall Crashers latest release is "Purr." Other releases include "Lockjaw," "The Old Record," "Honey, I'm Homely," and "Blue Plate Special." They also can be heard on soundtracks such as "Bio-Dome," "Angus," and "Godmoney."

I have to admit that ska music has never been my favorite for the soundtrack to life. The fairly recent movement that sped on its way with bands like No Doubt and Goldfinger eluded me for a while. I just couldn't hang with the ridiculous happy-go-lucky perkiness of that California sound. However, Dance Hall Crashers, a five member band from the Orange County, Calif. area, have changed my mind with their latest CD "Purr" (on Pink & Black Records.) The 12 track disc contains first person accounts of such heavy concepts as abusive love, low self-esteem, and dealing with lingering feelings after that "amicable" break-up.

The dark lyrics look depressing on paper, but set to the neo-punk/pop/ska backdrop of Jason Hammon on guitars, Mikey Weiss on bass, and drummer Gavin Hammon, the songs come alive with fun and excitement. Lead vocalist, main songwriter, and manager Elyse Rogers combines her strong voice with Karina Denike's complementary harmonies to create a sound that is sweet ear candy, but refuses to discredit DHC's brutal honesty.

Some of the best tracks on "Purr" include "Remember to Breathe," "Nothing Left to Say," "Make Her Purr" and a beautiful, acoustic "Cricket." The entire disc is a fresh, insightful collection of, dare I say, great ska music. Rogers and Denike dare their listeners to "give us one reason to make an impression." I usually get seriously annoyed with ska music. But consider me very impressed with "Purr." For more information about the Dance Hall Crashers, visit their website at www.crashers.com.

CD	Purr
Artist	Dance Hall Crashers
Rating	8 of 10

Dance Hall Crashers will be performing with Limp and No Use For A Name at the House of Blues in Chicago later this month.

The Chronicle is looking to develop a web department.

If you have experience working with HTML, Java Script, Dreamweaver, or Flash or are interested in learning, contact Lauren or *Marti at 989-2547* or SFLC 344-H.

Horoscopes

For the week of Sept. 7

Aries (March 21-April 19). This week, focus on work and other people. Romance should be good on Monday and Tuesday. You might even find your soul mate. From Wednesday through mid-Friday, make sure all work is done perfectly. Get together with a dear friend, maybe permanently, over the weekend.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Romance and other games should go well for you this week. Pay close attention to home and roommates on Monday and Tuesday. From Wednesday through Friday, play. It's OK to let your inner child out then. Thursday and Friday are best. You may be in the mood to work over the weekend.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). The emphasis is on home and family this week. It's a good time for a thorough housecleaning. Monday and Tuesday are good for studying. If you learn how to fix up your house, you can save a lot of money from Wednesday through Friday. This weekend will be good for entertaining and romance.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). This is a good week to learn new skills. On Monday and Tuesday, you may feel stressed about money. That could inspire you to make a shrewd deal. From Wednesday through Friday, you're smart. Take on a challenging project. Over the weekend, fix up your place, maybe with help from your friends.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You're even more powerful than usual this week. Focus on making money. Present your argument Monday and Tuesday. Rake in the coin from Wednesday through Friday. This weekend's good for learning, so a weekend class would be perfect. Take along your mate. If you don't have one yet, you might find one there.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're awesome this week. On Monday and Tuesday, finish old business perfectly. From Wednesday through Friday, you're looking good. Begin new projects on Thursday or Friday. Figure out where you'll get the money over the weekend. Maybe you can work some overtime, too.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Details are important this week, and neatness counts, too. On Monday and Tuesday, don't party too much, or you'll be in a world of hurt from Wednesday through Friday. There's a big exam coming up. It makes a lot more sense to schedule your party for this weekend — after the tough part's done.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Team sports should go well for you this week, except maybe on Monday and Tuesday. Be respectful then. From Wednesday through Friday, your position improves, and your team has a better chance of winning. Over the weekend, relax, on purpose. You'll do that by ensuring that justice prevails.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). On Monday and Tuesday, there's too much work to travel unless you can do both simultaneously. Be careful from Wednesday through Friday. Be respectful, not resistant, and you'll do fine. Being perfect helps, too. Go out with friends over the weekend.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Travel, higher education and philosophy go well for you this week. You're lucky in love, too. Focus on your future Monday and Tuesday and borrow if necessary. From Wednesday through Friday, romance and travel look irresistible. Time for a honeymoon? Start new projects, too. Go along with an older person's whims over the weekend. Settle into a routine.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18). Financial matters take the spotlight this week. On Monday and Tuesday, you and your mate need to discuss money so you can go shopping together on Wednesday or Thursday. By Friday, you'll be interested in other things, such as playing with your new toys, for example.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Partnerships are your major focus this week. You'll be busy on Monday and Tuesday. From Wednesday through Friday, stick with your schedule, accept constructive criticism and work with a partner. Shopping looks good over the weekend; selling looks good, too. Things might get kind of chaotic at your house, however.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week ... Sept. 6: Push to be even more perfect this year. Things are good, but make them better. Sept. 7: The pressure makes you stronger this year. Hone your skills. Sept. 8: Change is coming, so anticipate and manage it. Be in the driver's seat. Sept. 9: You're powerful and smart this year. Develop hidden skills. Sept. 10: This year, money's important so you can step outside your rut. Start saving seriously. Sept. 11: Save your pennies this year, so you can go further than ever before. Sept. 12: Take some of your earnings to upgrade your skills and live even better this year.

Total Fitness Center boasts new programs

JOSEPH BOGS
Staff Writer

Students may have a new interest in the Total Fitness Center this year.

That's because PUC's gym has added new equipment and more programs.

The TFC, in the PER building, is a university based fitness and wellness facility. It houses a wide variety of equipment to meet the diverse, individualistic needs of its members, according to John Bobalik, TFC director. There are also many programs provided by the TFC.

> **"We offer lots of things to meet the variety of student interests."**
> John Bobalik, Total Fitness Center director

"We offer lots of things to meet the variety of student interests," Bobalik said.

One of the ways the TFC is meeting the students' needs is to provide various aerobic classes. Tina Schmidt-Lennertz, aerobic coordinator, suggested that the TFC is trying to get away from only including the traditional aerobic classes.

"We are incorporating much more variety then the traditional health clubs," she said.

According to Schmidt-Lennertz, there are eight different types of aerobic classes being offered this fall. One of the new classes is a spinning class involving the use of high performance stationary bicycles.

"Spinning will give your cardiovascular system a challenge. An individual can burn up to 300 to 500 calories per class," she said. Other new classes are the resist class, using resistance training to tone and strengthen major muscle groups and the sweat class, including high intensity movements.

There are new cardiovascular tools in the TFC as well. Included are two Precor elliptical trainers, two StairMaster freerunners and a New Step 4000. All together there are over 30 pieces of cardiovascular equipment.

According to Bobalik, the TFC offers individual fitness assessments and body fat testing. Also, a student can have a personal fitness program written with their specific needs in mind. There is no additional fee for any of these services.

"Financially, you are not going to find a better deal," Bobalik said. He also suggested students would not be able to find a professional staff that would work with them on a one-on-one basis for the price.

"If Tina worked at another club, she could charge for training, whereas she does it at the TFC for relatively free," he said.

New this fall, students will be able to participate in the campus blood profile screenings taking place in late September. Rob Jensen, director of wellness and fitness, said, "For a $25 fee, students can get a blood screening done and the results will be sent right to their homes, which is great." He suggested that the cost of the screening at a doctor's office would be much higher.

Jensen urged students to get involved early.

"Research shows that people who start healthy habits early tend to stick with it," he said.

In October, the TFC will sponsor a personal training workshop. According to Schmidt-Lennertz, the class will run for three weeks and is recommended as a review for anyone wishing to pursue a personal training certification.

Two programs that students can get involved with are the balance and yoga classes.

"These two classes will make the mind and body connection," Schmidt-Lennertz said. Balance classes are part of the TFC aerobics schedule. Yoga classes incur an additional fee. Students interested in taking the class can pay $72 for a 12-week class, $24 for a month of classes or $5 per class.

Monthly seminars are also part of the TFC's schedule. According to Jensen, the seminars focus on topics of popular interest. Seminars are free and because seating is limited, registration is required.

Bobalik suggested the TFC is growing. "The TFC needs to expand as the students' needs grow," he said.

"We are looking to put in a cardiovascular center and a multi-purpose room. These changes are dependent upon funding and when the Challenger Center moves to their new location," Bobalik said.

"There is a tremendous wealth of resources available and I would like to see students take advantage of it," said Jensen. He suggested that students call or stop by to find out more information on the TFC and wellness center or any of their programs.

The TFC is located in the PER building, room K-171. Hours of operation are 5:30 a.m. until 9 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays; 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays; 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays; and closed on Sunday. These hours will be extended later into the semester. The TFC's phone number is 989-2175.

Photo by Skye Enyeart

Senior Matt Dudzik works out on a piece of new equipment in the Total Fitness Center.

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